

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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February 27, 2009

Mr. Andrew Souza, City Manager
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Second Floor
Fresno, CA 93721-3600

Dear Mr. Souza:

RE: Review of the City of Fresno's Adopted Housing Element

Thank you for submitting the City of Fresno's housing element adopted January 27, 2009, and received for review on February 2, 2009. The Department is required to review adopted housing elements and report the findings to the locality pursuant to Government Code Section 65585(h). The review has been expedited to facilitate applications for funding resources.

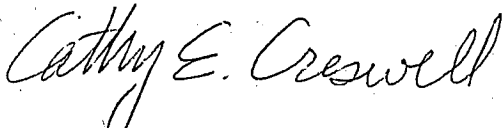
As you know, the Department's November 20, 2008 review found the City of Fresno's revised draft element addressed the statutory requirements of housing element law. As the adopted element is substantially the same as the revised draft, the Department is pleased to find the element in full compliance with State housing element law (Article 10.6 of the Government Code). The Department commends the City for its leadership in adopting programs to rezone sites to higher densities and encourage a variety of housing types in the City's downtown. Increasing the supply, density and variety of housing furthers the objectives of the *10X10 Blue Ribbon Affordable Housing Committee* to promote smart growth, urban reinvestment and infill development. Further, the City's housing and land-use programs will meet important economic objectives while addressing climate change, air quality and maximizing land resources to preserve agricultural and open space resources.

In addition, the City now meets specific requirements for several State funding programs designed to reward local governments for compliance with State housing element law. For example, the Infill Incentive Grant Program, authorized by Proposition 1C, Local Housing Trust Fund and the Building Equity and Growth in Neighborhoods (BEGIN) Program include housing element compliance either as a threshold competitive factor in rating and ranking applications. More specific information about these and other programs, including the Housing Related Parks Program, is available on the Department's website at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/hrc/plan/he/loan_grant_hcompl011609.pdf.

Mr. Andrew Souza, City Manager
Page 2

The Department appreciates the hard work and cooperation of Mr. Keith Bergthold, Director, Ms. Corrina Nunez, Project Manager, Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, and Ms. Claudia Cazares, Manager, during the housing element update. The Department wishes the City of Fresno success in implementing its housing element and looks forward to following its progress through the General Plan annual progress reports pursuant to Government Code Section 65400. If you have any questions or if the Department can provide assistance in implementing the housing and land-use strategies, please contact Paul McDougall, of our staff, at (916) 322-7995.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy E. Creswell".

Cathy E. Creswell
Deputy Director

cc: Keith Bergthold, Director, Planning and Development Department
Claudia Cazares, Manager, Housing Division
Corrina Nunez, Project Manager, Housing Division